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The Name of the Rose



Reverend Ian Peabody
Character Booklet

Congratulations! You are taking part in a murder mystery by Red Herring Games.

A few simple instructions to help you along:

Firstly: Don't Panic!

This booklet contains all the information you need as a guest to help you act your part throughout the murder mystery party.

The first page provides you with additional background information to help you get into character, however there are no special acting abilities required and you can make as much or as little of your character as you wish.

After that on each page you are given either something to read out, questions to ask, or answers to questions you may be asked. Although you are encouraged to ad lib, it is very important you do not lie, so provide the information contained within your booklet when it is asked of you.

If you have been given an additional clue packet/envelope you will be directed as to when to open it within the booklet.

Your host for the evening will direct you where necessary and tell you when to move on to the next round when the time is right.

If you are the murderer you will not be told. When you finally come to guess who did it – it could easily be you and feel free to point the finger at yourself if you feel you must!

And lastly: Have fun!

1 2

Reverend Ian Peabody

Background Character Information:

Keep this information to yourself, and use it to help you to act in character throughout the mystery:

You are quiet and inoffensive and totally hen pecked by your domineering wife. ("Yes dear" is a common phrase heard on your lips.)

You have a very monotonous voice, rarely varying pitch or tone. You also speak quite slowly and enunciate every letter very carefully.

You are into train spotting and stamp collecting in your spare time and might like to engage the other suspects in conversation about one of your hobbies at some point.

Reverend Ian Peabody

Introductions:

Use the following dialogue to introduce yourself to the other guests, speaking when indicated below.

Reverend Ian Peabody speaks first using the following dialogue:

Well, Good evening and welcome everybody. My name, as I am sure you all recall, is Reverend Ian Peabody, but you can just call me Reverend. Most people do. As the only vicar here, I suppose it falls to me to say Grace, so if we all just close our eyes I'll give thanks..."

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 1

Ian Peabody: Now that we've all introduced ourselves is there any chance I can get back to saying Grace?

Veronica Peabody: Are you still planning on doing that despite all I've said?

Felicity Good: Well I think it's a good idea. I may not have my roses, but I'd rather not get food poisoning as well, and perhaps Him Upstairs could do something about that?

Tim Good: If it's catering you are worried about there's always the "Bull and Pheasant." Free sandwiches with your second pint.

Simon Good: Well I'm not a vicar, but even I don't agree with that. All that offer's encouraging is heavy drinking, a sure recipe for liver problems in later life

Paula Fox: Well, I personally think it's a cracking idea. It sure beats hanging around here, and I expect the fare's better too. You can probably get BLT as well as various roast meats and it will sure beat cucumber and salmon paste with the crusts removed.

Cont.

Veronica Peabody: And what's wrong with salmon paste and cucumber?

Tim Good: Nothing, providing your dentures don't get clogged up with the soggy bread. I can't think why anyone still makes those kinds of sandwiches, they don't even go at the village fair, and that's populated by geriatrics.

Felicity Good: I happen to quite like salmon and cucumber.

Tim Good: Well, there's always the exception to the rule mother, but even *you* can't eat over 100.

Reverend Ian Peabody

First Round

Questions you should ask:

With her special place in the village celebrations, has Felicity Good been looking forward to today?

How does Paula feel about Felicity? Does Felicity hold any particular affection in her heart?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You heard along the grapevine that a new rose had been bred in this very village and, realising its potential for fundraising, you decided that it would be a good idea to come up with a competition to name the rose. You took your suggestion to the committee and it was passed wholeheartedly. You didn't envisage it being any more than a name in the hat type thing though. This whole "Best Village Mother" took things a step further than you had expected. It certainly wasn't your idea, and as far as you are concerned it pitted woman against woman in the village. (Not that you were objecting to all the well meaning individuals who suddenly brought cakes round to the manse!) It has made things very difficult within the congregation for the last few weeks as the ladies tried to outdo each other in good works, and you are glad it is over and done with.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 2

Paula Fox: Well, all I can say is: I'm enjoying this far more than I was expecting to do today. Not only has the Best Village Mother not been awarded her full honours, but everyone has had a chance to clear the air. I'm glad I came.

Felicity Good: I'm glad you came too dear. It's been good to have the family all in one place again.

Simon Good: Even if we aren't exactly getting on.

Tim Good: It's better than pretence surely? I agree with Paula. It's been good.

Veronica Peabody: Well I'm glad some people are enjoying it. I personally think it is disgraceful. It just goes to show you what a rebellious time we are living in. I tell you, this sort of thing wouldn't have occurred to those people in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Ian Peabody: For once you are right Veronica. As far as I know they didn't grow roses in the Middle East; too busy going to war.

Simon Good: Nothing's changed there then.

Cont.

7 8

Tim Good: When the fighting stops – that will be big news believe me. Still, it looks like Seven Acorns has long standing feuds of its own.

Veronica Peabody: Still, a beheaded rose is hardly a warring matter. I normally go about dead heading mine later in the year anyway, it's just been brought forward a little too early in this case. They'll grow back.

Ian Peabody: Yes dear, but not in time for today's festivities.

Reverend Ian Peabody**Second Round****Questions you should ask:**

How does Paula feel about the roses being sabotaged?

Does Simon Good agree that his mum is the best? Or did he think his mother didn't deserve the award?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

Although you agreed to take part in today's festivities out of good will, you never actually agreed with the concept of the day, not least because it occurred on a Sunday and you felt it encouraged people to come out and spend money on the Sabbath.

Mother's day always occurs on a Sunday – it is Mothering Sunday after all. You normally do a special service remembering mothers that morning, and every lady that attends the service gets a small bunch of daffodils, regardless of whether they are mother or not. You are quite irritated in the way that this whole naming ceremony thing had to occur on mothering Sunday. It is a day for remembering all mothers, not just village nominated ones, and you think this detracts from the real emphasis of the day.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Scripted Dialogue Round 3

Ian Peabody: Well it's too late now for Grace I suppose, but there's still chance of a benediction when we've finished the investigation.

Veronica Peabody: If you feel you must.

Paula Fox: Just so long as we don't have to shake hands with everybody at the end.

Felicity Good: I feel terribly responsible for all this you know. If it wasn't for me, half of you wouldn't be here, stuck in this marquee listening to a lot of village gossip and hearing dreadful allegations.

Tim Good: Don't worry mother, everyone looks as though they are enjoying themselves. They've probably had more fun doing this than they would have done simply cheering your presentation.

Simon Good: Though I could do with getting back to my patient rounds so I would appreciate it if we could hurry it along a little.

Tim Good: And I suppose you think you are the only one with business to attend to?

Cont.

Veronica Peabody: Yes, and I need to get back to water my plants.

Ian Peabody: Well, in that case may I suggest we start our discussions again. I've still got the evening service to prepare.

Reverend Ian Peabody

Third Round

Questions you should ask:

You thought you saw Felicity Good with a plaster on her fingers earlier. It's gone now. What had she done?

Tim Good has always been a "last minute" sort of guy. He revised at the last minute, and only arrives at the shop one minute to opening time. When did he buy his mum the roses?

Information you should reveal about yourself only when asked.

You have been very busy this morning. First of all you helped your wife to finalise the church flower arrangements (she was running late) and then, at the end of the service, before you came to the naming ceremony you helped her separate them all up into smaller bunches for the infirm in the congregation, and after that you dropped a few bunches off on the way here. In fact, you were so busy this morning you had a pair of pruners still in your pocket during and after the sermon. You dropped them off at your house on the way here.

Do not read further until instructed by your host.

Reverend Ian Peabody

Concluding Statement

Use the following dialogue to summarise your position, speaking when indicated below.

Reverend Ian Peabody speaks after Veronica Peabody using the following dialogue:

Really my dear, haven't I told you before "In my Father's house there are many rooms..." One day you'll have all the space you want, what does it matter what we have now? We can't take it with us as you well know. Anyway, at least with the conclusion of this investigation swiftly approaching, I can take my leave. It was bad enough to be called upon to deliver the award without having to remain around and pollute myself with Sunday spending!

After you have heard from all the guests make a prediction as to who beheaded the roses and why.

Tell the others.

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